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Athens Reporter Files Libel Suit in '83 Dispute

ATHENS, May 14 (AP) — A reporter here filed a libel suit today against the publisher of Greece's largest newspaper, a week after the Athens prosecutor charged the journalist with threatening terrorist acts against the paper.

The developments added another twist to a three-year-old legal battle involving charges by the newspaper that the reporter is a spy for the Central Intelligence Agency and charges by the reporter that the newspaper is controlled by the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence service.

The reporter, Paul Anastasiades, a Cypriot journalist based in Athens, sued the publisher, the editor and three staff members of the left-leaning daily Ethnos for defamation of character and perjury.

Meanwhile, Mr. Anastasiades and a lawyer friend, Panayotis Zotos, face as much as a year in prison if convicted of charges that they threatened to carry out terrorist acts against Ethnos, specifically the slaying of the paper's staff and destruction of its premises. A trial date has not been set.

Dispute Began in 1983

Mr. Anastasiades, who writes under the name Paul Anastasi, is a correspondent for The Daily Telegraph of London and a part-time correspondent for The New York Times.

The dispute began in 1983 when Mr. Anastasiades published a book entitled "Take the Nation in Your Hands." In the book, he charged that the newspaper was published in cooperation with the K.G.B. and described the paper's

publisher, George Bobolas, and its editor, Alexander Filipopoulos, as "agents of Soviet influence."

Mr. Bobolas sued, and Mr. Anastasiades was convicted of libel. He was sentenced to two years in prison but was released pending appeal. An appeals court annulled the sentence in 1984 on a legal technicality.

In July 1983, shortly after the book was published, Ethnos published excerpts of wiretapped telephone conversations between Mr. Anastasiades and Mr. Zotos.

The newspaper charged that Mr. Anastasiades was a C.I.A. agent and said the telephone conversations indicated he planned to kill employees of the newspaper, destroy the premises and destabilize democracy in Greece. The excerpts did not appear to support the charges.

2 Appealing Sentence

In April 1984, Mr. Bobolas and Mr. Filipopoulos were sentenced to five months in jail for using illegally acquired wiretaps, and they have appealed. They were acquitted of charges that they made the tap, on Mr. Anastasiades' phone at the office of The New York Times in Athens.

In the suit filed Wednesday, Mr. Anastasiades named as defendants Mr. Bobolas, Mr. Filipopoulos, Apostolos Garoufalis, the Ethnos public relations director, and two editors, Christos Theoharatos and Nikos Nikolaitis.

Mr. Anastasiades maintains that during the preliminary investigation of the wiretapping case, the defendants

gave contradictory evidence on how the tapes had been obtained. He also said his professional reputation had been damaged by articles against him in Ethnos.

Ethnos, or Nation, supports Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu's Socialist Government. The tabloid first appeared in 1981 and claims sales of more than 200,000 copies daily, representing 25 percent of all newspaper circulation in Greece.